



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Clay Spohn Papers,  
circa 1862-1985, bulk 1890-1985,  
in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald

1998

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical Note.....	2
Scope and Content Note.....	3
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subjects .....	3
Container Listing .....	5
Series 1: Clay Spohn Papers (Microfilm), 1926-1963, undated.....	5
Series 2: Clay Spohn Papers, circa 1862-1985, undated.....	7
Series 3: Addition to the Clay Spohn Papers, 1958-1977.....	21

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Clay Spohn papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.spohclay
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1862-1985 (bulk 1890-1985)
<b>Extent:</b>	20.4 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Spohn, Clay Edgar, 1898-1977
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	The Clay Spohn papers measure 20.4 linear feet and date from circa 1862 to 1985 with the bulk of the material dating from 1890 to 1985. The collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, business records, notes and writings, art work, printed material, and photographs which reflect the life and career of painter and educator Clay Spohn.

---

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The material on reel D169 was lent for filming by Clay Spohn in 1964. The material on reel 5461-5474 was donated by Spohn's friend and the executor of his estate, Urban Neinger, in 1978. An additional 0.4 linear feet of papers were donated by Spohn's biographer, David Beasley, in 2008.

### Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds material lent for microfilming (D169) including sketchbooks, writings, correspondence, and related material. Lent materials were returned to the lender and are described in the first series of the finding aid.

### Alternative Forms Available

Portions of the collection and materials lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels D169, and 5461-5474 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the collection as described in this finding aid does not reflect the order of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

Part 2 of the collection was processed by Jean Fitzgerald in 1998. The finding aid to Parts 1 and 2 was written by Jean Fitzgerald in 1998. A small addition was accessioned in 2008 and minimally processed in 2017.

## Preferred Citation

Clay Spohn Papers, circa 1862-1985, bulk 1890-1985. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use of unfiled material requires an appointment.

## Ownership and Literary Rights

Part 1 of the Clay Spohn papers was loaned to the Archives of American Art for microfilming and is subject to all copyright laws. Part 2 is owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. Part 2 is subject to all copyright laws.

---

## Biographical Note

Clay Edgar Spohn was born November 24, 1898, in San Francisco, to Lena (Schaefer) and John Henry Spohn. From 1919 to 1921, Spohn studied at the University of California at Berkeley, and from 1922 to 1924, he studied at the Art Students League in New York under Kenneth Hayes Miller, Boardman Robinson, George Luks and Guy Pene Du Bois. He also became acquainted with Alexander Calder at the Art Students League. In 1924, Spohn was employed as an assistant designer to muralist Ezra Winter. From 1926 to 1927 he studied in Paris at the Academie Modern, a school run by Fernand Leger and Orthon Fireze.

Returning to San Francisco in 1927, Spohn became an active member in the Bay Area art scene. The Treasury Department commissioned him, in 1938, to execute a mural for the Montebello, California post office, and in 1939, he completed another mural under the sponsorship of the WPA for Los Gatos Union High School in Los Gatos, California.

In 1942, the San Francisco Museum of Art mounted Spohn's solo exhibition "Fantastic War Machines and Guerragraphs", consisting of a series of drawings inspired by dreams of World War II. From 1945 until his resignation in 1950, Spohn was employed as instructor of drawing and painting at the California School of Fine Arts, where he befriended Clyfford Still and Mark Rothko. In 1949, at the California School, he organized a group exhibition entitled "The Museum of Unknown and Little Known Objects", in which Spohn's extraordinarily-constructed objects were a focal point.

Spohn moved to Taos, New Mexico in 1952, and participated in several national exhibitions. He was Visiting Lecturer at Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, in 1958, after which he moved to New York City where he executed a series of paintings under the sponsorship of the collector J. Patrick Lannan. From 1964 to 1969, he taught at the School of Visual Arts in New York.

After a two year move to Taos, Spohn returned to New York in 1971. In 1974, the Oakland Museum sponsored a retrospective of Spohn's work.

Clay Spohn died in New York City on December 19, 1977.

---

## Scope and Content Note

The Clay Spohn papers measure 20.4 linear feet and date from circa 1862 to 1985 with the bulk of the material dating from 1890 to 1985. The collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, business records, notes and writings, artwork, printed material, and photographs reflecting the life and career of painter and educator Clay Spohn.

Part 1 includes sketchbooks with annotated drawings by Spohn, writings including reminiscences by Spohn, letters, clippings, and photographs of Spohn's artwork.

Part 2 includes biographical material; correspondence between Spohn and his colleagues; business records such as Spohn's general accounting records; Spohn's notes and writings on a variety of subjects; drawings and sketchbooks; printed material such as exhibition announcements and catalogs; and photographs of subjects such as Spohn, his family and colleagues, his house, and his artwork.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three parts. Part 1 was lent to the Archives of American Art in 1964 by Clay Spohn, and was microfilmed and returned to Spohn. Part 2 was donated to the Archives of American Art by Urban Neiningger in 1978 and was partially microfilmed. Because material from part 2 was not processed until over three decades after filming Part 1, the overall organization is inconsistent. In general, material within folders is arranged chronologically.

- Part 1: Clay Spohn Papers, 1926-1963
- Part 2: Clay Spohn Papers, circa 1862-1985 (boxes 1-22, OV 23, 19.9 linear ft.)
- Part 3: Addition to the Clay Spohn Papers, 1958-1977 (box 24; 0.4 linear ft.)

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Painting, Abstract -- France -- Paris  
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Account books  
Ambrotypes  
Drawings  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks

Names:

Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976  
Corbett, Edward, 1919-  
Corbett, Rosamond Walling Tirana, 1910-1999  
Fryworth, Teressa, 1906-1981  
McChesney, Mary Fuller

Neinger, Urban  
Reynal, Jeanne, 1903-  
Ribak, Louis, 1902-1979  
Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970  
School of Visual Arts (New York, N.Y.)  
Sievan, Maurice  
Sihvonen, Oli, 1921-  
Still, Clyfford, 1904-  
University of California, San Francisco. School of Fine Arts

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Clay Spohn Papers (Microfilm), 1926-1963, undated

- 1.1: Sketchbooks, 1926-1927
- 1.2: Writings, 1963
- 1.3: Correspondence and Related Material, 1939-1954, undated

#### 1.1: Sketchbooks, 1926-1927

The three sketchbooks found here contain notes and annotated drawings made by Spohn during his stay in Paris. Sketchbook I contains a drawing of Hemingway's friend, Musgrave, at Le Dome, schematic drawings for a "portable studio," and notes about what to take to Giverny. Sketchbook II contains a self-portrait drawing and one drawing each of Musgrave and Duff Twisden, Hemingway's model for "Brett" in *The Sun Also Rises*, with whom Spohn became acquainted in the cafes of Paris. Sketchbook III contains designs for chairs and notes giving advice on art.

Reel D169	Sketchbook I, [1926]
Reel D169	Sketchbook II, 1926-1927
Reel D169	Sketchbook III, 1926-1927

#### 1.2: Writings, 1963

Writings consist of Spohn's reminiscences in the form of a 100-page letter to sculptor and art historian Mary Fuller McChesney. He answers questions about his career and describes, with words and drawings, his works for the exhibition *The Museum of Unknown and Little Known Objects* at the California School of Fine Arts in 1949.

Reel D169	Writings (entitled "Reminiscences" on microfilm), 1963
-----------	--

#### 1.3: Correspondence and Related Material, 1939-1954, undated

Found here is a letter from Reginald Vaughn discussing the acquisition of Spohn's Los Gatos mural for the Morrison Center for Rehabilitation, a letter from the W.P.A. office concerning exhibitions, and three clippings. Also found are twelve photographs of artwork (primarily Spohn's murals) including: the mural *The Legend of New Almaden*; mural for a post office in Montebello, California; a mural for Castro Valley community center; a mural *Fireman Save My Child* for Volunteer Fire Department in Carmel, California; scale drawings of Benimino Bufano's proposed statue for Twin Peaks, San Francisco; and the lithograph *Greek Legend*.

Reel D169	Letter from Reginald Vaughn, 1954
Reel D169	Photographs of Work Executed Between, 1936-1939, undated
Reel D169	Letter from W.P.A., 1939

Reel D169

Clippings, 1936-1941

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 2: Clay Spohn Papers, circa 1862-1985, undated

(boxes 1-22, OV 23, 19.9 linear ft.)

- 2.1: Biographical Material, 1892-circa 1978 (box 1, 0.3 linear feet)
- 2.2: Correspondence, 1925-1981, undated (boxes 2-5, 4.7 linear feet)
- 2.3: Business Records, 1890-1983 (boxes 6-7, 1.6 linear ft.)
- 2.4: Notes and Writings, 1924-1985 (boxes 7-18, 10.8 linear ft.)
- 2.5: Artwork, 1926-1968, undated (box 18, sol 22, OV 23, 0.6 linear ft.)
- 2.6: Printed Material, 1894-1977, undated (boxes 18-19, 1.5 linear ft.)
- 2.7: Photographs, circa 1862-1977, undated (boxes 20-21, 0.5 linear ft.)
- 2.8: Artifacts, undated (box 21, 1 folder)

### 2.1: Biographical Material, 1892-circa 1978

(box 1, 0.3 linear feet)

Biographical material includes a variety of official documentation for Spohn and his parents. Documents concerning Spohn's parents include their marriage license. Documents concerning Spohn include his baptismal certificate, passport, the contents of two wallets, membership and identity cards, biographical sketches, two wills, and Spohn's death certificate. There is also a typescript biography of Spohn, "Life of a Painter," by David R. Beasley.

Biographical materials are on reel 5461.

Box 1, Folder 1	Documents Concerning Spohn's parents, 1892-1916
Box 1	Documents Concerning Clay Spohn
Box 1, Folder 2	Baptismal Certificate, 1898
Box 1, Folder 3	Naval Discharge Papers, 1918
Box 1, Folder 4	Passport and Identity Card for Travel in France, 1925-1926
Box 1, Folder 5	Contents of Wallet 1, 1941-1953
Box 1, Folder 6	Contents of Wallet 2, 1966-1977
Box 1, Folder 7	Membership Cards, 1951-1966
Box 1, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Identity Cards, 1958-1965
Box 1, Folder 9-11	Biographical Sketches and Résumés, 1932-1971
Box 1, Folder 12	Spohn's Medical History, 1964
Box 1, Folder 13	Wills, 1950-1969

Box 1, Folder 14                      Death Certificate, 1977

Box 1, Folder 15                      Typescript biography "Life of a Painter" by David R. Beasley, circa 1978

## 2.2: Correspondence, 1925-1981, undated

*(boxes 2-5, 4.7 linear feet)*

Correspondence is between Spohn and his colleagues, including two letters from Alexander Calder, eight letters from Mark Rothko, and twenty-eight letters from Clyfford Still.

See Appendix for an alphabetical list of correspondents from Series 2.2.

Correspondence is on reels 5461-5470.

### Appendix: Alphabetical List of Correspondents in 2.2

- Abend, George and Kitty Parker Abend (artists): 1950-1960 (4 letters)
- Abingdon Square Painters: 1958 (1 letter)
- Addison Gallery of American Art: 1958 (2 letters)
- American Artists' Congress: 1938 (1 letter)
- American Library of Color Slides: 1941 (1 letter)
- Anderson, Claude J. K.: 1958 (1 letter)
- Anderson, Wendell (poet): 1955-1956 (2 letters)
- Archives of American Art: 1964 (4 letters)
- Art Academy of Cincinnati: 1958-1959 (3 letters)
- Art Association of Newport: 1958 (1 letter)
- Art Career School: 1958 (1 letter)
- Artists Equity Association: 1950 (1 letter)
- Arts and Architecture: 1963 (1 letter)
- Art Students League: 1958-1964 (2 letters)
- Art Times: 1959 (1 letter)
- Art Workshop of the Rivington Neighborhood Association, Inc.: 1958 (1 letter)
- Ashton, Dore: 1969 (1 letter)
- Ayer, Phyllis: 1956 (1 letter)
- Bachels, Andrew: 1969 (1 letter)
- Barnett, Rici: 1973 (1 letter)
- Barron, John N.: 1966 (1 letter)
- Beasley, David and Viola: 1963-1978 (11 letters)
- Bender: Albert M. Bender Memorial Trust: 1947-1951 (2 letters)
- Bethers, Peggy: 1940 (1 letter)
- Blesh, Rudi: 1960 (1 letter)
- Board of Education, City of New York: 1958-1965 (2 letters)
- Booth, James W. (family friend): 1943-1956 (7 letters)
- Borgenight: Grace Borgenight Gallery, Inc.: 1965 (1 letter)
- Boru, Sorcha: 1932-1933 (12 letters)
- Brandenburg, Helen: 1970 (1 letter)
- Braunstein/Quay Gallery: 1977 (1 letter)
- Briggs, Ernie: 1967-1977 (2 letters)
- Bright, Beatrice: 1971-1973 (2 letters)
- Brock, Midu: 1954 (1 letter)
- Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture: 1966 (1 letter)
- Brown, Lesley: 1955 (1 letter)
- Burke, Bob: 1971 (1 letter)

- Burnham, Janet B.: 1950 (1 letter)
- Bute, Janey: 1971 (1 letter)
- Calcagno, Lawrence: 1969-1977 (5 letters)
- Calder, Alexander: 1970-1972 (2 letters)
- California Palace of the Legion of Honor: 1964 (1 letter)
- California School of Fine Arts: 1955-1964 (2 letters)
- California: University of California at Berkeley: 1940 (1 letter)
- California: University of California at Santa Clara: 1975-1976 (2 letters)
- Carewe, Sylvia: 1969 (1 letter)
- Carr, James F.: 1967 (1 letter)
- Chase Manhattan Bank: 1971 (2 letters)
- Chisholm, Stuart (landscape architect): 1925 (1 letter)
- Clayton, Janice: undated and 1965-1974 (6 letters)
- Clifton, Jim and Mary (owners of a Spohn painting): 1956 (1 letter)
- College Art Association: 1949 (1 letter)
- Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center: 1952-1970 (4 letters)
- Cooke, Regina: 1955 (1 letter)
- Cooley, Anne: 1941 (1 letter)
- Corbett, Ed and Steff, and Rosamond Tirana: undated and 1951-1977(47 letters, including a 1962 wedding announcement for Corbett and Tirana, and a letter dated Mar 21, 1963 enclosing a photograph of Ed with an amputated foot)
- Craig, Jeanne: 1963 (2 letters)
- Crawford, Jane and Ernie: 1958 (3 letters)
- Crehan, Hub and Anne: 1960 (1 letter)
- Crewe, Sylvia: 1969 (1 letter)
- Crews, Judson and Mildred (publishers of poetry magazine in Taos): 1952-1969 (4 letters)
- Cumming, Ann (and Jennifer Sutcliffe): 1956 (1 letter)
- Cunningham, Ben: 1950 (1 letter)
- D'Arcangelo, Allan and Sylvia: 1965 (1 letter)
- Dasburg, Andrew: 1961 (1 letter)
- DePuy, John: 1964 (1 letter)
- Diebenkorn, Richard: 1951 (1 letter)
- Dilexi Gallery (L. James Newman): 1965 (1 letter)
- Dixon, Budd (J.B.) and Peggy: 1954-1970 (5 letters)
- Dowell-Kahl Gallery (Leone Kahl, director): 1963 (1 letter)
- Drumm, Steve: 1953 (1 letter)
- Durham, Charlotte: 1968-1970 (3 letters)
- D'Vorzon, Berenice and Randal Goya: 1965 (1 letter)
- East Hampton Gallery: undated (1 letter)
- Edwards, Tom L.: 1945-1974 (2 letters)
- Egri, Ted and Kit: 1958-1971
- Elster, Grace-Marion: 1926 (1 letter)
- Ely, Georgette and Wolcott: 1958-1969 (38 letters)
- Finichel, Lilly: 1954 (1 letter)
- Forster, Bertrand Dixon: 1961 (1 letter)
- Forster, Paul and Else: undated and 1943-1974 (15 letters)
- Fort Worth Art Center Museum: 1971 (1 letter)
- Foss, Florence: 1958 (1 letter)
- Fran, Ford: 1971 (1 letter)
- Fryworth, Teressa (Terry) (Registrar at California School of Fine Arts): 1950-1978 (72 letters)
- Fuller, Mary: see McChesney, Mary
- Fuller, Patti (Ed Corbett's niece): 1955 (2 letters)

- Furse, Roger: 1928-1953 (4 letters)
- Gallery of Modern Art, Taos, N.M.: 1972 (1 letter)
- Garcia, Enos: 1954 (1 letter)
- Georgiadis, Alex: 1951 (1 letter)
- Gettell, Mrs. Richard Glenn: 1958 (an invitation to meet Col. George Lincoln)
- Gluck, Heidi: 1977 (1 letter)
- Gomez, Dorothy Massey (mother of anthropologist Bill Massey): 1950 (1 letter)
- Gomez, Joe: undated and 1971 (2 letters)
- Grant, Bob: 1953-1972 (2 letters)
- Grant, Carolyn: 1969 (1 letter)
- Great Neck Board of Education: 1960 (1 letter)
- Grimm, Marjorie: 1973 (1 letter)
- Grossmann, Nancy: 1966 (1 letter)
- Guggenheim: John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation: 1953-1954 (2 letters)
- Harwood Foundation: 1953-1956 (2 letters)
- Harris, Roger: 1973 (1 letter)
- Hawley, W. R.: 1977 (1 letter enclosing an exhibition catalog "Unemployed Wizards")
- Heischman, R. L.: undated (1 letter)
- Hill, Dorothy: 1967 (2 letters)
- Hocks, Fred: 1952 (1 letter)
- Howard, Ellen and Galen: 1957 (1 letter)
- Howard, Robert Boardman and Adaline Kent (San Francisco sculptors): 1951-1955 (2 letters)
- Howard, Madge Knight and Charles H.: 1946-1954 (21 letters)
- Hultburg, John and Lynne: 1959-1974 (5 letters)
- Huntsville Museum of Art: see Braunstein/Quay Gallery
- Hurst, Tricia: 1977 (1 letter)
- Hutchinson, Mrs. D. H.: 1925 (1 letter)
- Illinois: University of Illinois at Urbana: 1952 (2 letters)
- Jackson: Martha Jackson Gallery: 1965 (1 letter)
- Jacobson, Art (artist) and Ursula: 1950-1960 (9 letters)
- Jonson Gallery: 1969-1970 (2 letters)
- Kadish, Reuben: 1958 (1 letter)
- Kahl: Leone Kahl Gallery: 1964 (1 letter)
- Karnes, Marion Watson: undated and 1947-1954 (80 letters from Spohn)
- Keeney, James: 1963 (1 letter)
- Kieve, Rudolph: 1971 (3 letters)
- King, Vivie and Rufus: 1977 (1 letter)
- Kingman, Dong: undated calling card
- Kuhlman, Walt: 1957 (2 letters)
- Kultberg, Lynne and John: 1965 (1 letter)
- Labaudt, Lucien: 1943 (1 letter)
- Labaudt, Marcelle: 1956 (1 letter)
- Landgren, Paula: undated (1 letter)
- Lannan, J. Patrick (The Susquehanna Corporation/ The Lannan Foundation): 1966-1971 (4 letters); see Personal Business Records for correspondence pertaining to the Foundation's support of Spohn, 1961-1962
- LaPlante, John (Stanford University): 1949 (1 letter)
- Lazarus, Rosalind: 1960 (1 letter)
- LeBow-Gould Associates: 1958 (3 letters)
- Lee, Martha: 1957 (1 letter)
- Lehman, Margaret: 1957 (1 letter)
- Letter Shop: 1956 (1 letter)

- Library of Congress Copyright Office: 1932 (1 letter concerning the trisection of an arbitrary angle)
- Lippincott, Janet (artist): 1955-1956 (5 letters)
- Lockwood, Ward: 1952 (1 letter)
- MacAgy, Douglas and Betty: undated and 1945-1973 (13 letters)
- MacAgy, Jermayne (Jerry): 1945-1948 (2 letters)
- Macdowell Colony: 1975 (1 letter)
- Machcinski, Barbara: 1971 (1 letter)
- MacIntyre, Carlyle F.: 1945 (1 letter)
- Maes, Virginia: 1941 (1 letter)
- Mare, Doris and Emil: 1969 (1 letter)
- Marse, John J.: 1962 (1 letter)
- Marter, Joan: 1977 (3 letters)
- Martin, Agnes: 1958-1975 (3 letters)
- Massey, Ellen DeSelms: 1940 (2 letters)
- McCarthy, Francis Joseph (AIA): 1950 (1 change of address card)
- McChesney, Mary (Fuller) and Mac: 1952-1977 (62 letters, including one dated May 21, 1968 decorated with a lizard skin, one dated Jun 08, 1973 enclosing a wooden Yalalag Indian good luck charm, and one dated May 26, 1976 enclosing a photograph of group and McChesney art work at Temko mansion in Berkeley)
- McCormick, Herbert: 1951 (1 letter)
- McDonald, Katharyn: 1963-1964 (2 letters)
- Merlin Development Company: 1962 (1 letter)
- Merrick, Barbara: 1975 (1 letter)
- Meyer, Fleur Cowler: 1968 (1 letter)
- Miller, Dorothy (Museum of Modern Art): 1952-1977 (8 letters)
- Moore Dry Dock Company: 1942 (2 letters)
- Murphy, Jack W. and Dori (owners of some of Spohn's work): 1951-1976 (7 letters)
- Mygatt, Tony: 1954 (1 letter)
- National Collection of Fine Arts: 1977 (1 letter)
- Neiningner, Urban and Jeanne: 1950-1976 (48 letters)
- New Mexico Highlands University: 1958-1969 (3 letters)
- New Mexico: Museum of New Mexico Art Gallery: 1952-1957 (3 letters)
- New Mexico: University of New Mexico at Albuquerque: 1957-1970 (2 letters)
- New York City Transit Authority: 1962-1963 (2 letters)
- New York Saucer Information Bureau: 1962-1965 (2 letters)
- New York University: 1958-1960 (3 letters)
- Oakland Museum (Terry St. John): 1970-1977 (33 letters)
- O'Connor, Francis V.: 1979 (1 letter)
- Ohio State University: 1958 (1 letter)
- Oldfield, Otis: 1942 (1 letter of recommendation for Spohn for Albert M. Bender Grants-in-Aid)
- Olmsted, Frederick: 1943 (1 letter)
- Oregon: University of Oregon: 1974-1975 (2 letters)
- Ortman, George: 1964 (2 letters)
- Otto, Curtis, Roberta, and Adrienne: 1957 (1 letter)
- Oxford University Press: 1949 (1 letter)
- Parrett, Fred C.: undated and 1954 (2 letters)
- Peale, Norman Vincent (office of): 1975 (1 letter)
- Pepsi-Cola Annual Art Competition: 1947 (2 letters)
- Peterson, Arline? and Pete: 1955-1957 (2 letters)
- Petrovo, Miriam: 1961-1971 (11 letters)
- Pitney, Peggy and Ed: 1948 (1 letter)
- Queens College: 1958 (2 letters)

- Ramsay, Anna R.: 1954 (1 letter)
- Rankine, Vivie (Mrs. Paul Scott Rankine): 1964-1981 (5 letters)
- Remington, Deborah: 1963 (1 letter)
- Reminick, Harry: 1954 (1 letter)
- Reynal, Jeanne: 1941 (an invitation to a reception for Arshile Gorky) and 1952 (1 letter)
- Ribak, Louis and Bea: 1954-1976 (5 letters)
- Richards, Tally: 1971-1980 (5 letters)
- Ridiman, Bob: 1963-1970 (4 letters)
- Rogoway, Marjorie and Rog: undated and 1953-1968 (15 letters)
- Rosebury, Amy and Ted: 1954 (1 letter)
- Rosen, Michael: 1970-1974 (4 letters)
- Roswell Museum and Art Center: 1977-1978 (6 letters)
- Rothko Foundation: 1971-1975 (4 letters)
- Rothko, Mark and Mell: 1946-1958 (8 letters)
- Rusnell, Wesley: 1972-1979 (13 letters)
- Sachs Gallery: undated and 1968 (2 letters)
- St. John's College: 1969 (1 letter)
- Salzer, Oscar: 1955 (1 letter)
- Sanders, Una and John: 1975-1977 (6 letters)
- Sands, Louis: 1948 (1 letter)
- San Francisco Art Association: 1939-1955 (19 letters)
- San Francisco Museum of Art: 1949-1977 (18 letters)
- Saxe, Suzanne: 1972-1973 (2 letters)
- Scarpitta, Pat and Sal: 1968 (1 letter)
- Schneiderwirth, Joan (friend of Ed Corbett): 1955 (1 letter)
- School of Visual Arts: 1964-1970 (86 letters)
- Schubart, Pauline: 1950 (1 letter)
- Shoemaker, Peter (former student of Spohn): 1955-1958 (5 letters)
- Shiras, Mary: 1958-1965 (10 letters)
- Sihvonen, Oli: 1953-1977 (66 letters)
- Slivka, David: 1954 (1 letter)
- Smith, Hassel: 1948 (1 letter)
- Spoerri, John: 1965-1977 (10 letters)
- Stables Art Gallery (Leone Kahl, director): 1956-1965 (14 letters)
- Stanford University: 1946 (1 letter)
- Stephens, Dick and Carolyn: 1960-1965 (3 letters)
- Stevens: Arthur Stevens Book Club: 1968 (1 letter)
- Still, Clyfford: 1948-1968 (28 letters, including one dated Nov 1950 to Ed Corbett, and one dated Nov 29, 1963 enclosing a hand-drawn map to Still's home)
- Strehler, Allen (Sociologist): 1954 (1 letter)
- Summers, Al: 1952 (1 letter)
- Sutcliffe, Jennifer (beautiful English girl who passed through Taos with Ann Cumming): 1956 (2 letters)
- Sznajderman, Marius: 1967 (1 letter)
- Taggart, Bill, Sandy, and Sean: 1968 (1 letter)
- Taos Artist's Association (Taos Art Association): 1956-1964 (6 letters)
- Taos Realty: 1968-1969 (3 letters)
- Tatarsky, Hy and Muriel: 1952-1957 (2 letters)
- Tatarsky, Stephanie: 1963-1964 (7 letters)
- Taylor, Gene: 1925 (letter of introduction to Erskine Gwynne)
- Temianka, Henri: 1941 (1 letter)
- Tensan, Keith and Gene: 1957 (1 letter)
- Terrain Gallery: 1960 (1 letter)
- Terry Art Institute: 1951-1952 (7 letters)

- Third Street Gallery (Helen Kaye, Director): 1950 (1 letter)
- Thomas, Corine (owner of a Spohn painting): 1954-1957 (7 letters)
- Tirana, Rosamond: undated and 1958-1962 (10 letters); see Corbett, Edward for additional letters
- Van Duren, Allan and Betsy: 1953 (1 letter)
- Van Ingen, Pat: 1973 (2 letters)
- Varda, Yantoo?: 1949 (1 letter)
- Visual Arts Gallery: 1967 (2 letters)
- Vollmer, George A.: 1945-1948 (3 letters)
- Von Herberg, Charlotte: 1950-1958 (2 letters)
- Wakefield, Ruth Cravath: 1943 (1 letter of recommendation for Spohn)
- Wandell, Walt and Doreen: 1958 (1 letter)
- Wasley, Emily (aunt) and Sarah Rhoads (cousin): 1946-1955 (14 letters)
- Wehrer, Anne: 1974 (1 letter)
- Whaley, Bill: 1974 (1 letter)
- White, Minor: 1963 (1 letter)
- Who's Who In American Art: 1952-1969 (5 letters)
- Who's Who In The Midwest: 1959 (1 letter)
- Who's Who In The West: 1959 (1 letter)
- Willard, Charlotte: 1960-1967 (3 letters)
- Williams, Matilda A.: 1958 (1 letter)
- Wilmans, Margery and Steve: 1974 (1 letter)
- Winston, James W.: 1941 (1 letter)
- Wise: Howard Wise Gallery: 1962 (1 letter)
- Woelffer, Emerson and Diana: 1955-1958 (5 letters)
- Wood, Ralph: 1960-1970 (5 letters)
- Wright, Dorothy: 1926 (1 letter)
- Wurlitzer: Helene Wurlitzer Foundation: 1954-1957 (3 letters)
- Young-Hunter, Mrs. John: 1959 (1 letter)

Box 1, Folder 16-52	Correspondence, 1925-May, 1953, undated Reel 5461
Box 1, Folder 53-71	Correspondence, June, 1953-1955 Reel 5462
Box 2, Folder 1-16	Correspondence, 1956-July 13-16, 1958 Reel 5462
Box 2, Folder 17-58	Correspondence, July 13-16, 1958-June, 1963 Reel 5463
Box 3, Folder 1-35	Correspondence, June, 1963-April-June, 1967 Reel 5464
Box 3, Folder 36-57	Correspondence, April-June, 1967-October, 1969 Reel 5465
Box 4, Folder 1-6	Correspondence, November, 1969-February 1-10, 1970

	Reel 5465
Box 4, Folder 7-30	Correspondence, February 1-10, 1970-April 21-30, 1971 Reel 5466
Box 4, Folder 31-55	Correspondence, April 21-30, 1971-January 1-19, 1973 Reel 5467
Box 4, Folder 56-59	Correspondence, Jan 1-19, 1973-March, 1973 Reel 5468
Box 5, Folder 1-18	Correspondence, April, 1973-September, 21-30, 1974 Reel 5468
Box 5, Folder 19-40	Correspondence, October, 1974-March-May, 1976 Reel 5469
Box 5, Folder 41-61	Correspondence, June 3, 1976-1981 Reel 5470

### 2.3: Business Records, 1890-1983

*(boxes 6-7, 1.6 linear feet)*

Business records primarily consist of Spohn's general accounting records, account books, banking records, contracts, inventories of artwork sold, records of support from the Lannan Foundation, records concerning Spohn's house in Taos, and miscellaneous receipts for healthcare, travel, art supplies, photographic services, and shipping. This subseries also includes documents concerning the companies managed by Spohn's father, John H. Spohn, and the patents and estate papers of Spohn's brother, John H. Spohn, Jr. These can be found at the beginning of the subseries.

Business records are unfiled.

Box 6, Folder 1	John H. Spohn, 1890-1928
Box 6, Folder 2-4	John H. Spohn, Jr., 1940-1950
Box 6, Folder 5-7	General Accounts, 1950-1975
Box 6, Folder 8-25	Account Books, 1932-1976 <i>(18 books)</i>
Box 6, Folder 26-53	Banking Records, 1943-1977
Box 6, Folder 54	Contract and Financial Records (mural on Bob's Fine Food restaurant), 1945-1946
Box 6, Folder 55	Contract and Consignment Records for The Little Gallery, Taos, NM, 1957



Box 6, Folder 56	Inventory of Artwork in the Estate of Clay Spohn, 1981-1983
Box 6, Folder 57-59	Records of Artwork Sold, 1941-1970
Box 7, Folder 1-6	Records of Support from the Lannan Foundation, 1961-1962
Box 7, Folder 7	Records of Stocks, 1939-1969
Box 7, Folder 8	Insurance, 1973
Box 7, Folder 9-14	Spohn's House in Taos, 1952-1977
Box 7, Folder 15-24	Receipts, 1933-1978

## 2.4: Notes and Writings, 1924-1985, undated

*(boxes 7-18, 10.8 linear feet)*

This subseries contains miscellaneous notes and writings and includes 188 notebooks, address lists, a card file of book titles, Spohn's "Subject Location," "Index and Date," and "School of Visual Arts" files, and two typescripts by other writers. The miscellaneous notes and writings, and the notebooks, are concerned with various topics, often intermingled, such as teaching notes; lists of names, books, and groceries needed; financial records for art supplies; Spohn's thoughts on philosophy and art; dietary advice; annotated studies and calculations concerning the "trisection of an arbitrary angle"; notes for his unpublished literary work "The Book," (sometimes entitled "The Actual Book" or "The Truth Book"); and brief and incomplete drafts written either for writing class assignments or for "The Book."

Files on the School of Visual Arts contains class schedules, grade sheets, and 37 notebooks of class assignments, records of student grades, notes for lectures, lists of books for teaching, writings about teaching, and notes on art supplies for class.

Notes and writings are unfiled unless noted otherwise.

Box 7, Folder 25-57	Miscellaneous Notes and Writings, 1924-1985, undated
Box 8, Folder 1-56	Miscellaneous Notes and Writings, 1951-1958
Box 9, Folder 1-57	Miscellaneous Notes and Writings, 1959-June, 1962
Box 10, Folder 1-62	Miscellaneous Notes and Writings, July, 1962-May, 1970
Box 11, Folder 1-47	Miscellaneous Notes and Writings, June, 1970-1985
Box 11, Folder 48-63	Notebooks 1-21, 1926-1927
Box 12, Folder 1-48	Notebooks 22-76, 1927-1962

Box 13, Folder 1-29	Notebooks 77-105, 1962-1965
Box 14, Folder 1-23	Notebooks 106-136, 1965-1968
Box 15, Folder 1-25	Notebooks 137-163, 1968-1973
Box 16, Folder 1-19	Notebooks 164-182, 1973-1976
Box 17, Folder 1-6	Notebooks 183-188, 1976-1977
Box 17, Folder 7	Address Lists, undated Reel 5470
Box 17, Folder 8-12	Card File of Book Titles, 1959-1976 Reel 5470
Box 17, Folder 13	Spohn's "Subject Location File", 1960-1961 Reel 5470
Box 17, Folder 14-19	Spohn's "Index and Date File,", 1960-1961 Reel 5471
Box 17, Folder 20-22	Notes from Private Trade School Teacher's Course at N.Y.U., 1965 Reel 5471
Box 17, Folder 23-33	School of Visual Arts Notebook, 1964-1970 Reel 5471
Box 18, Folder 1-12	School of Visual Arts Notebook, cont., 1964-1970 Reel 5471
Box 18, Folder 13-14	Engagement Calendars, 1965, 1976
Box 18, Folder 15	Typescript, "The Sickness of American Culture" by Reinhold Niebuhr, undated
Box 18, Folder 16	Typescript, "Clay Spohn's Museum" by Douglas Macagy, 1965?

## 2.5: Artwork, 1926-1968, undated

*(boxes 18, 22, and OV 23, 0.6 linear feet)*

Artwork consists of 557 drawings, including 27 undated drawings of Washington D.C., and 14 sketchbooks.

Artwork is on reel 5472.

Box 18, Folder 17-38	Drawings (see also box 22 and OV 23), 1926-1968, undated
Box 18, Folder 39-48	Sketchbooks (see also box 22), 1925-1939
Box 22, Folder 1	Oversized Drawings , 1926-1968, undated
Box 22, Folder 2	Oversized Sketchbooks , 1925-1939
Box OV 23	Oversized Drawings , 1926-1968, undated

## 2.6: Printed Material, 1894-1977, undated

*(boxes 18-19, 1.5 linear feet)*

Printed material consists of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs for Spohn and others, exhibition prospectuses, reproductions of artwork, calendars of events, programs, brochures, books, and miscellaneous printed material.

Printed materials are on reels 5472-5474.

Box 18, Folder 49-51	Clippings, 1930-1939, undated
Box 18, Folder 52-68	Clippings, 1941-1963
Box 19, Folder 1-8	Clippings, 1964-1977
Box 19, Folder 9-12	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Spohn, 1939-1977
Box 19, Folder 13-17	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Others, 1940-1977
Box 19, Folder 18	Exhibition Prospectuses, 1945-1954
Box 19, Folder 19	Reproductions of Artwork, undated
Box 19, Folder 20	Calendars of events, 1965-1977
Box 19, Folder 21	Programs, 1965-1969
Box 19, Folder 22	Brochures Concerning Taos Artists, undated
Box 19, Folder 23-24	Brochures Concerning the School of Visual Arts, 1965-1969
Box 19, Folder 25	Brochures Concerning Miscellaneous Schools, 1949-1967
Box 19, Folder 26	Brochures Concerning the Oakland Museum, undated

Box 19, Folder 27-29	Brochures Concerning Art Supplies, 1956-1963
Box 19, Folder 30	Brochures Concerning Books, 1969, undated
Box 19, Folder 31-35	Brochures Concerning Health, 1958-1973
Box 19, Folder 36	Miscellaneous brochures, undated
Box 19, Folder 37	Book, <i>Riverside Recipes</i> , 1894
Box 19, Folder 38	Book, <i>A Poet's Breath</i> , by Judson Crews, 1950
Box 19, Folder 39	Book, <i>Painting and Sculpture</i> , Published by the San Francisco Art Association, 1952
Box 19, Folder 40	Book, <i>Applied Teaching Techniques</i> by Gilbert Weaver and Louis Cenci, 1960
Box 19, Folder 41	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1940-1958

## 2.7: Photographs, circa 1862-1977, undated

(boxes 20-22, 0.5 linear feet)

Photographs are of Spohn and his family, colleagues, studio, house in Taos, exhibition installations, and artwork. There are also photographs of San Francisco, including six views of damage done by the 1906 earthquake. Colleagues pictured in the photographs include Marion Karnes, Urban Neiningger, Jeanne Reynal, Louis Ribak, Alfred Rogoway, and Maurice Sievan.

Photographs of artwork for projects by Spohn picture the following: an entrance hall mural for Officers Club, San Francisco (undated); a cartoon for copper repousee sculpture for Carmel, California, Volunteer Fire Department (1936); a cartoon for copper repousee sculpture for Castro Valley Community Center (1937); a mural for Montebello, California, post office (1938); and a mural for Los Gatos Union High School (1939).

Photographs are on reel 5474.

Box 20, Folder 1-2	Spohn with Family Members, 1900-circa 1915
Box 20, Folder 3-6	Clay Spohn (see also box 22), circa 1916-1974
Box 20	Family Members
Box 20, Folder 7	Spohn's Paternal Grandfather, [circa 1862] ( <i>ambrotype</i> )
Box 20, Folder 8	Spohn's Grandmother, undated

Box 20, Folder 9	Spohn's Mother (see also box 22), undated
Box 20, Folder 10-12	Spohn's Father, circa 1890-1920 <i>(including 7 tintypes)</i>
Box 20, Folder 13-14	Spohn's Parents, circa 1910s-1920s
Box 20, Folder 15-17	Spohn's Brother and Friends, circa 1910-1940
Box 20, Folder 18-20	Family Friends, circa 1910-1920s
Box 20, Folder 21	Bell Moose Convention, 1917
Box 20, Folder 22	Spohn's Colleagues, 1944-1974
Box 20, Folder 23-24	Spohn's Childhood Home, circa 1900
Box 20, Folder 25	San Francisco Earthquake Damage, 1906
Box 21, Folder 1	From World War I, 1917
Box 21, Folder 2	Views of San Francisco, 1932
Box 21, Folder 3-5	Miscellaneous Travel Photographs, undated
Box 21, Folder 6-8	Spohn's House in Taos, 1952-1970
Box 21, Folder 9	Spohn's studio, 1977
Box 21, Folder 10	Exhibition Installations, undated
Box 21, Folder 11-13	Miscellaneous Artworks by Spohn (see also box 22), 1936-1977
Box 21, Folder 14	Projects, Entrance Hall Mural for Officers Club, San Francisco, undated
Box 21, Folder 15	Projects, Cartoon for Copper Repousee Sculpture for Carmel, California, Volunteer Fire Department, 1936
Box 21, Folder 16	Projects, Cartoon for Copper Repousee Sculpture for Castro Valley Community Center, 1937
Box 21, Folder 17	Projects, Mural for Montebello, California, Post Office, 1938

- Box 21, Folder 18          Projects, Mural for Los Gatos Union High School, 1939
- Box 21, Folder 19          Photograph of a Painting *Number 10* by Mark Rothko, undated
- Box 22, Folder 3          Oversized Photographs of Spohn, Family, and Artwork , 1916-1977, undated

## 2.8: Artifacts, undated

*(box 21, 1 folder)*

Artifacts consist of four military pins from Marion Karnes.

Artifacts are unfiled.

- Box 21, Folder 20          Military pins from Marion Karnes, undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 3: Addition to the Clay Spohn Papers , 1958-1977

### *0.4 Linear feet (box 24)*

The addition includes nine notebooks of notes and writings on art, class assignments, telephone calls and appointments, plans and procedures, an index for the history and location of paintings, and financial records.

The addition is unfiled.

Box 24, Folder 1	Notebook, Thoughts on Art, 1958
Box 24, Folder 2	Notebook, Art Notes , 1958
Box 24, Folder 3	Notebook, Plan and Procedure for One's Work , 1963
Box 24, Folder 4	Notebook, Telephone Records, Appointments, and Notes , 1969
Box 24, Folder 5	Notebook, Notes for The Real Book , 1969
Box 24, Folder 6	Notebook, Personal Notes , 1974
Box 24, Folder 7	Notebook, Class Assignments , 1977
Box 24, Folder 8	Notebook, Index of History and Location of Paintings , 1964-1965
Box 24, Folder 9	Notebook, Financial Records , 1973-1975

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*